FORESTRY

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SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

May 1949

Miscellany

HAROLD C. BRADLEY, if you do not already know it, is, in about this order: the son of the late Cornelius Beach Bradley, a Charter Member of the club and once editor of the *Bulletin;* a skier of many decades' experience; father of seven skiing sons, including *No Place to Hide* author David Bradley; Professor Emeritus of Physiological Chemistry, University of Wisconsin; and so many times a grandfather that the various sons must now put in reservations for given names to avoid duplication.

He is also the very capable chairman of the Conservation Committee's subcommittee on roads, and in this role is quite alert to what happens at road ends and to roadsides in our scenic areas. Not even the far-off Black Hills national-forest lands escape him, as a copy of a recent letter he wrote to the Secretary, Rotary International Office, will show:

"I was somewhat shocked to read in the May *Rotarian* that a sculptor and a Rotarian was about to spend the next thirty years of his life chopping up another mountain in the Black Hills, not far from the Rushmore debacle. The object is to commemorate the Indians, in the shape of Crazy Horse. Having carved up the Indians—with considerable excuse as we viewed the situation then—we now propose to carve up another unspoiled masterpiece of nature, to make sure that posterity will be reminded of both pieces of ruthless destruction. Could we not persuade Rotarian Ziolowski to express his admiration for Crazy Horse in more modest dimensions, and spend his thirty years in less destructive ways? Many people like their mountains just as they come."

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Photo credits. Front cover, William Hail—Lake near Silver Pass; 12, Brower. Tailpiece by Torcom Bedayan.

THE SIERRA CLUB, founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast. Since these resources receive best protection from those who know them well, the club has long conducted educational activities, under the committees listed below, to make them known. Participation is invited in the program to preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 34 MAY, 1949 NUMBER 5

...TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE...

For the May Record

On Tipping Scales

The voice of conservation, like that of the turtle, is now being heard throughout the land to such a degree that state and national legislators are proceeding more warily than of yore in acceding to the demands of those who want large slices of the public domain—of areas set aside in perpetuity as the outstanding wild and scenic wonderlands of this nation.

Even if at present the scales are tipping favorably toward our side, however, the tip is not enough to allow us to indulge in victory parades. Were we to do so we might find the opposition taking advantage of our lapse and stealing the fruits of our victory—whether in Olympic National Park, Jackson Hole, at the Glacier View damsite, or in the various park and forest wildernesses that are denied to roadbuilders and other developers.

One reason this small success has been achieved is the coöperation that exists between the Sierra Club and other national conservation organizations, such as the Wilderness Society, the National Parks Association, the Izaak Walton League, and the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. The first test of our combined national strength came in the famous battle against the proposal to make a mechanized development of the San Gorgonio Wild Area. We are still facing a similar battle in the Mount San Jacinto Wild Area and State Park. Moreover, information just received indicates that renewed pressure is developing to open the Joshua Tree National Monument to prospecting and mining entry.

To cope properly with these continuing battles we intend to see that the monthly *SCB* keeps you currently informed of victory, defeat, or armistice as it takes place. In this way you may rejoice, criticize, and be eternally vigilant. A.H.B.

New Handbook Coming

Early next year the Editorial Committee expects to launch the revised edition of *The Sierra Club—A Handbook*. Additions, corrections and many improvements (we hope) will make this of even more value than the 1947 edition. In preparing this revision the committee needs the help of every member of the club. What mistakes did you find in the *Handbook*? What did you think should have been included that wasn't? Our pencils and ears are sharpened in readiness to hear and correct, and to do what we can to make your *Handbook* what *you* think it should be. As one of the editors said, "Here's your chance to shout instead of mutter!" Let us hear from you now.

This new revision will be sent free to new members, and will be available at only $1.00 to old members.

We should add that the new Handbook brings together under one cover the 32 finest half-tone reproductions of Ansel Adams's and Cedric Wright's photographs the *SCB* has ever had. And they are varnished! EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.

Directors Hold Organization Meeting

Seldom has there been so much change in the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club as in the last year. Two of our leaders had served on the Board for possibly longer than the average age of the present membership of the club. Walter L. Huber and William E. Colby retired after 35 years and 49 years of service, respectively. In order to have the benefit of their experience as long as possible and in recognition of their many years of loyal service, each was unanimously elected an Honorary Vice-President. Directors Weldon Heald and Norman B. Livermore, Jr., also felt it necessary to retire because of their distance from the meetings of the Board and the heavy burden which each had assumed in starting into a new field of endeavor.

To fill the vacancies, Robert L. Lipman and Arthur H. Blake were unanimously elected by the directors, and the April election brought Harold Crowe back to the Board and elected Dr. H. Stewart Kimball.

The annual organization meeting of the Board was held May 7, 1949, in the club rooms at San Francisco. All directors were present with the exception of Ansel Adams, en route to McKinley National Park, and Phil Bernays, now recovering from a serious eye operation. Officers were elected as follows: Lewis F. Clark, President; Harold Crowe, Vice-President; Robert L. Lipman, Treasurer; Richard M. Leonard, Secretary; and Francis P. Farquhar, the fifth member of the Executive Committee. All incumbent honorary officers were reëlected with the addition of Will Colby as Honorary Vice-President. Walter A. Wood, President of the American Alpine Club and American director of the Arctic Institute of North America, very active in exploring and publishing about the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast and scheduled to be the speaker at the Spring Dinner of the Sierra Club that evening, was elected an honorary life member of the club. Howard Zahniser, Chairman of the Natural Resources Council of America and Executive Secretary of The Wilderness Society, was elected an honorary life member in recognition of his outstanding work for the preservation of the wilderness, and particularly his deep interest and strong assistance in the San Gorgonio battle of 1947 and the High Sierra Wilderness Conference of 1949.

Concessions in National Parks

This has become an increasingly important and controversial question because of apparent changes in the social philosophy of certain officials within the Department of the Interior with respect to the governmental relations with concessioners in national parks. The directors carefully reviewed previous correspondence with the Secretary of the Interior and the reply from Assistant Secretary Davidson, and authorized and directed the officers of the Club to reply to the Secretary, reaffirming the basic position of the Sierra Club essentially as follows:

1. The Government should not operate, either directly or indirectly, any hotels, restaurants, merchandising or transportation facilities, except in rare instances when no other means of providing adequate services can be found.

2. The nonprofit-distributing corporation, whether wholly owned by the Government or only controlled by the Government, is undesirable in the National Parks for the following reasons:

   a. Because of the Government's interest in its affairs and the influence of its officers it would be difficult for the Park administrative officers to control its activities.
   b. The Government-owned nonprofit-distributing corporation, to the extent that it would be relieved of certain taxes and of dividend requirements, would have an unfair advantage over legitimate private enterprises in other National Parks or outside of the parks.
   c. If National Park Service officials become interested in operating concessions in the parks, even only in the supervisory capacity of members of the board of directors, it is inevitable that

their attention and time will be increasingly absorbed in these operations to the neglect, if not to the distortion, of their other administrative duties.

3. Although the employment of private capital and private enterprise in the *operation* of national park facilities is in almost all cases desirable, nevertheless Government *ownership* of the basic facilities may, under certain circumstances, be advantageous to the public interest.

4. Private capital for investment in park operations can be obtained only if sufficient inducements are offered. Operations of this character involve risk, and, to offset risk, there must be opportunity for adequate return on investment, as well as reward for good management, in the form of profit when profit can be found. The primary purpose of Government regulation should be to see that the goods and services are satisfactory and that the prices are comparable to those paid for similar goods and services under similar conditions elsewhere.

5. The policy of entrance fees need not be uniformly applied throughout the National Park System.

6. There is still too much emphasis on the franchise fee in the concessions contracts. The fee should not be regarded either as a source of Government revenue or as a means of regulating profits.

7. The Sierra Club agrees that, in general, a concession contract should provide for preferential rights during the term of the contract. However, merchandising and feeding, except in connection with hotels and lodges, should be reviewed for separation from the monopoly contract applicable to hotels and transportation. Competition in those fields has proved advantageous in certain parks.

Attention was given H.R. 4117, which would throw Kings Canyon National Park open to long-term concession contracts by removing the present five-year limitation. The Board felt that there could be no objection to twenty-year contracts in the old established Grant Grove section of the Park or in the Cedar Grove area when finally added to the Park. The Secretary was authorized to advise the backers of the bill that such was the view of the Board and that the Sierra Club would not oppose the bill if assurance could be given that no commercial developments are planned above Cedar Grove.

Attention was called to H.R. 1662, providing for government purchase of the properties of the Rainier National Park Company. The Board concluded that it would approve the bill if it were amended to provide only for ownership by the government with lease for private operation in accordance with the views of the Sierra Club as expressed in the concessions policy adopted by the Club.

Private Lands within National Parks

The problem of private lands within the boundaries of national parks is well known to most Sierra Club members. Many have seen the real estate signs, ads and lots for sale in both Mount Lassen Volcanic National Park and in Yosemite. Logging is in progress right now on private land at Aspen Valley on the old Tioga Road. Senator Butler has introduced a bill, S. 728, which authorizes appropriations totalling $20,000,000 at the rate of $1,250,000 a year to buy up the most serious of these private holdings. The bill also attempts to eliminate the bitter opposition to acquisition of private property by the state or federal government which often arises in local communities. The bill provides that 25 per cent of all moneys received from automobile permit, admission, guide, elevator, and parking fees during any fiscal year from each area subject to the jurisdiction of the National Park Service shall be paid to the states in which the parks are situated to be expended for the benefit of the county concerned, provided that no county shall receive an amount more than 40 per cent of the total revenues received from all other sources. This general provision for relieving the immediate financial loss to counties has been approved by the Bureau of the Budget and by the Administration for many years. It has been repeatedly urged as the basis for a solution of the long controversy over the Jackson Hole National Monument. The Sierra Club strongly supports this basic type of legislation providing for acquisition of private lands, and specifically endorses S.728.

Proposed Dams in the Sierra Nevada

Gradually it is being realized that the Sierra Club has a legitimate interest in plans for construction of dams in the Sierra Nevada, and that its judgment with respect to such proposals is of real value to the agencies responsible for protecting the public interest. It was accordingly good to receive word that the Federal Power Commission had deferred action on an application to construct a new power dam in the Sierra Nevada until the views of the Sierra Club could be obtained. This instance was Dam No. 7 of the Southern California Edison Company on the San Joaquin River, a few miles above Friant Dam. It was explained to the Board by a representative of the company that the water would be at elevation 1403′ and that it would be kept constant at that level without the destruction to wildlife occasioned by a fluctuating reservoir. The Board after careful consideration unanimously agreed that based upon the above considerations construction of the dam would seem to be in the public interest, *provided* sufficient water is released at all times between the diversion point at the dam and the reëntry of the water below the power plant so that the intervening streamflow would be adequate for the protection of fish and wildlife. The matter of the proposed Wishon Reservoir on the North Fork of the Kings was referred to the Conservation Committee for early consideration, the President being authorized to take action as recommended by the Conservation Committee.

Mount San Jacinto Primitive Area and State Park

The Board of Directors approved in principle the program of the Riverside Chapter and the special San Jacinto Subcommittee of the Conservation Committee in opposition to construction of the proposed tramway, which would violate the primitive condition of the park. It was felt that such commercial exploitation of a formally established Primitive Area would be so destructive as a national precedent that every effort within the resources of the club should be made to preserve the area. Accordingly, an appropriation of $1,000 was made for initial work on the problem. Further information is given elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

Calaveras Big Trees

Gene Wilbur and Colonel R. M. Baughey, legislative representatives for the California War Memorial Park Association, outlined the history of their excellent work in Washington and in Sacramento for the preservation of the Calaveras Big Trees and as much of the surrounding sugar pine forest as can be obtained. They said that park opponents now claim that the total stumpage involved has a value of approximately four million dollars and that if the trees are preserved as a State Park the counties will lose the 25 per cent share of stumpage which they would otherwise eventually receive from the Forest Service lands that are proposed to be traded for the trees to be preserved. This loss might approximate a million dollars. Surveys have therefore been ordered to determine the actual timber values and county financial losses that would be involved. The California Legislature on May 6 passed a joint resolution thanking the Secretary of Agriculture for the assistance already given by the federal government and pledging adequate state action to complete the preservation of the forest. It is proposed that the state contribute to the federal government the money necessary to reimburse the counties for the loss of stumpage. Fortunately, sufficient time has been gained to continue these negotiations, for the Chairman of the Board of the Pickering Company has pledged the Secretary of Agriculture that the company will not do any cutting within the areas under discussion during 1949.

An attempt is being made to confuse the public by asserting that these magnificent trees which have reached ages of 800 years in the case of some of the sugar pines and several thousand years among the sequoias, are now suddenly "overmature" and that the entire forest is doomed

to eventual destruction. The cure, of course, is to cut them all down before they fall down. It is clearly implied in this type of propaganda that the "overmaturity" will result in heavy losses within a relatively short period of time. Even if it be true that sugar pine and sequoia do not reproduce as well as certain other trees in the shade of a mature forest, it is nevertheless a cycle of a great many centuries and could, if necessary, be somewhat controlled by particular care for young trees of the species in danger. In any case, the country would certainly be far better off to have these magnificent trees for additional centuries instead of curing the disease by simply cutting them down. A brief comment on the problems presented by climax succession of vegetation is presented in the *Bulletin*.

Butano Forest

Jack Barnard, Sierra Club representative on the Board of Directors of Butano Associates, outlined the recent successful progress of the bill to preserve this fine forest. He spoke of the excellent presentation made by President Francis Farquhar in a meeting with Governor Warren, at which the Governor assured the delegation that the trees certainly must be preserved and the principal question was how best it could be accomplished within the limitations of present state finances. The Assembly Committee on Conservation, Planning, and Public Works, under the very excellent leadership of Charles Weber of Stockton, unanimously approved the bill and passed it to the Ways and Means Committee for further action. The support of the Sierra Club membership has been very influential in persuading the members of the Legislature and the Governor of the importance of saving both this forest and the Calaveras. All seem to be agreed that the objective must be accomplished and the only delay is in trying to work out the best means.

Membership

The Secretary reported that as of April 1 the membership of the Sierra Club was approximately 6,660. By unanimous action of the Board, George Bauwens, who has done so much for the club for so many years, particularly with reference to the Keller Peak and San Antonio ski huts, was elected a life member of the Club. It was called to the attention of the Board that Rosalind Keep had been a member since 1904 and that her father was a charter member. She was unanimously elected a life member.

Lodges

Alex Hildebrand, as retiring chairman of the Lodge Committee, reported that $5,000 was available in the Clair Tappaan Lodge Fund for improvements to the lodge during the 1949 season. He also reported that the Benson Memorial Hut was well under way, but that approximately $4,000 more would be required to complete it. The Treasurer was authorized to advance to the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee not to exceed $3,000 as a loan without interest to be applied exclusively to the construction of the Benson Hut. It was explained that the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee would have completed the program as originally contemplated if it had not been for improvements to the main lodge which had recently become mandatory.

There was considerable discussion concerning the future program of ski shelter huts to be constructed by the club in the Sierra Nevada. The President referred the entire matter to the Lodge Committee and the Winter Sports Committee as a joint project to investigate and to make a progress report to the next meeting of the Board in September, with a minority report for any divergent views. The President was authorized to appoint a special committee to investigate a building site near the proposed new development at Squaw Valley, near Lake Tahoe, but without power to commit the club to any arrangements. The President referred to the Lodge Committee and Winter Sports Committee for joint consideration the location of a building site in the vicinity of Echo Summit. Mr. Cunningham, as Chair-

man of the Southern California Chapter, reported on changes in plans for improvement of Harwood Lodge.

Future Meetings of the Board

It has been the custom for several years for the Board of Directors to meet somewhere in the Sierra Nevada on the Sunday prior to Labor Day of each year. Eivind Scoyen, Superintendent of Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks, extended a cordial invitation to meet near the Atwell Grove of Big Trees in Sequoia National Park. In view of the increasing importance of the Mineral King area, the invitation was accepted with appreciation.

A business meeting of the Board of Directors to be held during the winter season has been set for Saturday, November 12, 1949, in Los Angeles, to be followed by the Semiannual Dinner of the Sierra Club. RICHARD M. LEONARD, *Secretary*

Calaveras: How Feeble Its Pines?

Sacramento, April 29, 1949

Mr. John B. Elliott, Chairman
Calif. War Memorial Park Association

The State Division of Forestry has been requested by the Director of Natural Resources, Warren T. Hannum, to survey the areas of the South Calaveras Grove acquisition project outlined in the Olmsted Report of 1945, to determine certain factors such as:

1. Degree of maturity of Sugar Pines and associated conifers in Units III and IV.
2. Volume of Commercial Sugar Pine and other species, and estimated stumpage value in Units III and IV.
3. Liability of existing growth in Units III and IV to destruction by insects and disease due to mature nature.
4. Ability of Sugar and Ponderosa Pines in dense canopy of Units III and IV to reproduce under present conditions. Natural trend is for this type of forest to pass to a cycle of extensive fir reproduction. The fir is more shade-tolerant, attains sapling and pole stature under the canopy, and quickly takes over openings as mature Sugar Pines deteriorate and fall.
5. Life expectancy of Units III and IV for park purposes in view of degree of threat (to be determined) from insects, disease, and natural death through old age.

This survey by the Division of Forestry also is occasioned by requests from members of the State Legislature for more complete information on the areas.

It is contemplated the survey will be in full swing late in May, when snow will be sufficiently melted to permit field work.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. HENNING, *Chief*
Division of Beaches & Parks

Washington 19, D.C., May 9, 1949

Mr. Gene Wilbur
California War Memorial Park Assn.

I hear that studies are to be made of the South Calaveras and Beaver Creek areas, to determine the age and condition of the Sugar Pines, extent of insect infestation, etc., so that it will be known how long this region will be outstanding scenically if it is acquired for park purposes.

I don't know anything about the people who are to make the survey, but sincerely hope that their scientific competence is matched by their friendly disposition toward the preservation of scenic forests, and that both are high. Because the physical status of a forest appears to be affected as much by the attitude of those who study it, as by factors they are studying.

In 1936, when Congress was about to authorize the inclusion of the Carl Inn grove of sugar pines in Yosemite National Park, solemn warnings were given that this was a sick forest. If the bark beetles didn't get it the pine rust would. Well, it's still there, and doing very nicely. Two years later, in 1938, the Olympic Park was being created. Up there, it was Sitka spruces that were sick and dying. Maybe the creation of the park was a tonic to them, for they suddenly regained their health after the bill was passed.

It's a fact, of course, that trees like people seldom die of old age. When they get old enough to do so, they die of something else—the trees of visible insects, usually, and people of invisible ones. That doesn't end the human race, and it doesn't end the forest.

Now, as to the Sugar Pine. The other day I asked a government forester at what age it reached maturity and how long it was likely to live after reaching it. He replied that maturity was hard to define, but it would reach senility in from 200 to 300 years, and was likely to die of an insect attack within a year or two after reaching that stage. This forestry expert was opposed to the Calaveras project. So I went to the published records of the Forest Service, to find out what experts said when there was no ax to be ground. Here is the statement of the Forest Service, in the pamphlet on Sugar Pine, in the series "American Woods," written by Senior Engineer H. S. Betts:

"The Sugar Pine attains an age of about 500 years and grows to a larger size than any of its associates except the Sequoia with which it is occasionally found."

Here is another significant statement in that pamphlet:

"One of the most remarkable characteristics of the tree is its ability to sustain its rate of growth up to a very advanced age."

The extraordinary size of the Beaver Creek Sugar Pines, compared with those farther north and in the Coast Range, is not due to their age, but to the climatic conditions under which they grow. That particular area is better adapted to the vigorous growth of this species than any other spot in the world. The younger trees will be as big as the older ones, when they come to supplant them. But not if they are lumbered! A tree which needs 500 years to attain maximum size can be cut down in a day.

In connection with the coming survey, two things should be kept in mind. First, insect infestation is a normal part of forest growth, decay and replacement. There is no need to worry if the experts say they have found the mountain pine beetle and the western pine beetle—no, not even if they report the presence of Dendroctonus monticolae and Dendroctonus brezicomis. The woodpeckers have been living on them for thousands of years. All that is needed—and any well-run park system has it—is a degree of "maintenance insect control" that will prevent a bark beetle epidemic. Such control is easy in Sugar Pine or any mixed stand of conifers, though sometimes very difficult in lodgepole.

In the second place, no heed whatever should be paid to the "problem" of transition from Sugar Pine to Fir, in Areas 3 and 4 of the Olmsted Report. What if an extra heavy proportion of sugar pine does result in a shift to fir in a couple of hundred years? Before we let our hearts bleed for the poor people of 2149 A.D., thus deprived by Nature of a portion of their heritages, let us think of the added pleasure which will be gained by the Californians and other Americans of the year 2099 A.D. and thereabouts, who will see the wonders of a forest *in transition*.

The hardest thing in the world for a forestry scientist to understand is the fact that forests gain in beauty and scenic magnificence as they shift from one type of dominant tree to another. In the Olympic National Park, the biggest Douglas Firs—trees eleven or twelve feet in diameter—are found in forests that are nine-tenths hemlock, and how they stand out! Three hundred years ago these were fir-type forests.

So, the Beaver Creek region, an area properly included in a park because it is an outstanding example of sugar-pine forest, may through the centuries acquire a different type of distinction—different but not inferior.

Nature does a grand job of maintaining scenic forests, if she gets a chance. But she can't compete with the ax, the saw and the caterpillar tractor. Fifty years from now there won't be a scenic virgin forest big enough for an Odd Fellows' picnic, except as they are acquired and preserved by our Federal and State governments, in advance of the relentless activities of the lumbermen.

IRVING BRANT

FWSA in Convention at Reno

Delegates of the Far West Ski Association, representing skiers in California, Nevada and Hawaii met in their annual convention at the El Cortez Hotel, Reno, Nevada, Saturday, April 2.

The morning business was devoted primarily to committee reports. By far the most outstanding was the treasurer's report by Arthur Van De Kamp, in which it was disclosed that for the first time in its history the FWSA was not only financially solvent but that a substantial amount was now in the FWSA treasury. The morning went quickly with the delegates anxious to hear from the foes of the $2.00 membership plan who had been circulating their proposals to the delegates prior to the convention.

A few minutes after the convention reconvened in the afternoon the "fireworks" began. Resistance had been strong in many parts of the central and northern sections of the FWSA to the compulsory 100 per cent $2.00 club memberships as passed at the last convention in Pasadena in October, 1948. This opposition has been so strong in certain areas that a number of clubs, formerly members of the FWSA, have decided on a parting of the ways. Three proposals suggesting an amendment to the by-laws were presented by three opposing groups, the Modesto S.C., the Auburn S.C., and the Bay Area Ski Federation. Following the reading of these proposals a long and heated debate followed with near "secession" talk by members of the opposition groups. In order to keep the convention in order it was decided that the incoming president would appoint a committee composed of members representing each and every group, and that the membership plan be studied and a report made to the board of directors of their decision. Although pro and con debate went rampant for a short time it was the unanimous opinion of the delegates that a representative body must function to serve the skiers within the territory of the FWSA.

In a record shattering move it was unanimously voted by the delegates that the president appoint a paid executive secretary to perform the necessary clerical duties in connection with the functions of the FWSA. It was decided that the incoming president would decide on the salary and length of employment.

The new officers of the FWSA were duly elected: President, B. M. Zimmerman, Reno; Secretary, Henry Berrey, Yosemite; Treasurer, Arthur Van De Kamp; Vice-Presidents: District 1, none; 2, Ray Whitcher; 3, Emil Walter; 4, Andy Hauk; 5, Luell Weed; 6, Warren Hart; National Directors: Bill Bechdolt, William Rossi, Al Sigal, Frank Ferguson, Tyler Van Degrift and "Corty" Hill.

—*The Skier*, 3:12

Lassen Meet Canceled

Phil Brown, President, and other officials of the Mount Lassen Ski Club announced today that they have found it necessary to cancel all plans for the Club's Annual Midsummer Ski Tournament, held each year in late June or early July on the slopes of Lassen Peak in the upper reaches of Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Reasons for this year's cancellation include the inability of the Mount Lassen Club to comply with a recent ruling of the Far Western Ski Association, without whose sanction the meet cannot be held. The Association's ruling states that member clubs must pay an annual dues of $2.00 for each individual member of the club, this being beyond the financial ability of the Lassen Ski Club. Also, recent checks of the snow pack around Lassen Peak indicate that the pack, while ample, will probably be very soft, making racing dangerous.

Skiers as well as spectators throughout the West will be sorry to learn of the cancellation as the tournaments in the past have been highly successful and popular with all, but club officials felt they had no alternative other than to cancel the meet.

Skier Opinion on San Jacinto

[The following resolution was unanimously passed at the recent convention of the Far West Ski Association in Reno.]

WHEREAS, "The San Jacinto Winter Park Authority," a political entity, has been authorized to construct certain structures, more particularly described in the Enabling Act, creating said Authority, on the eastern slopes of the San Jacinto Mountains, an area heretofore designated as a primitive area by the United States Department of Agriculture but now under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission of the State of California, and

WHEREAS, substantial publicity material has, from time to time, appeared in newspapers and other publications indicating directly or by inference that the structures contemplated by the Winter Park Authority will make accessible desirable terrain for the development of an excellent ski area and its facilities, and

WHEREAS, snow and other surveys made by qualified experts and by the Southern Area Planning Committee of the Far West Ski Association conclusively demonstrate that the area to be rendered accessible by the building of the structures contemplated by the Winter Park Authority is unsuited for such use due to the type of terrain, exposure of the slopes and many other factors noted in said surveys;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that this Association at its annual meeting held April 13, 1949 reiterate and reëmphasize the considered opinion of its Southern Area Planning Committee that the slopes and areas contemplated to be rendered accessible by the structures proposed by the Winter Park Authority are unsuited to the sport of down-hill skiing and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attention of the members of this Association and all other interested persons be again directed to the fact that the northern and easterly escarpments of the San Jacinto Mountains are deeply scarred, rocky, rough, and precipitous and that the rendering of these areas accessible will not materially increase the areas in Southern California suited to the sport of down-hill skiing and that statements expressing a contrary view have been neither countenanced, acquiesced in, nor endorsed by this Association.

[From Frank H. Ferguson]

Park Funds Needed

[*Permission was sought to reprint in the* SCB *the article by Bernard de Voto mentioned in the letter which follows; it was not obtained owing to reprint negotiations then under way between* Harper's *and* Reader's Digest. *It is hoped the article will receive wide circulation and be read by club members.*]

Washington, D.C., April 15

To Friends of the Association:

The article by Mr. Bernard de Voto, in the March issue of *Harper's Magazine*, about national park and monument problems arising from insufficient appropriations, states the facts so vividly that we believe it will be of interest to you . . .

As you will see, when you read this article, many of the most serious problems confronting the National Park Service in its administration and protection of the national park system are due to lack of sufficient personnel and money . . .

You will find additional analyses of these problems in the article by Mr. Newton B. Drury, Director, National Park Service, titled "Private Lands in the National Parks" in *National Parks Magazine* for April-June 1947 . . .

The National Parks Association urges that you take personal action yourself by letting your representatives in Congress know your views regarding the need for providing funds adequate to permit the National Park Service to protect and administer the parks and monuments.

DEVEREUX BUTCHER,
Executive Secretary,
National Parks Association

SNOW CAMP NEAR SUMMIT OF MOUNT RALSTON
In May, but not this May

The Snow Situation: A Public Apology

Berkeley, May 29

Dear Weldon Heald,

We let an entire issue of the *SCB* get by without mention of the snows, and most of this one; but we can hide our guilt no longer. Throughout the winter repeated promises have gone out that the annual magazine number, complete with your snow-forecasting article, would soon appear. It didn't. Only a photo finish will have it in the mail by June's end.

So what happened? The Weather People, unmindful of what was expected—all owing to our negligence – didn't come through. No drier April and early May do we remember. The Tioga Road opened on May 28. Ansel Adams writes from Yosemite, ". . . the forest-fire hazards are distressing. Dust is already blowing on the roads around Coulterville. We must do everything we can to guard against such disastrous fires as the Rancheria Mountain and Goddard Canyon fires of last year."

You should be pleased to know that our sins caught up with us. We moved the High Trip south to avoid the snows—of yester-year. And we got caught with a ski-camping cut to go with a touring article that cannot be. So we'll run the cut anyway, treasure it, think of the snows that might have been. Then, shouldering like a man the grief of our own making, we'll head for the mountain slopes that are all too bare . . .

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